Percentage of undertrials in prisons

447. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LA W, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that undertrials constitute 85 per cent of the prison population;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the major problems faced by undertrials are judicial delay, problems in getting bail, non-accountability of lawyers;

(c) whether the undertrials are being put in Tihar and they generally face non-acceptance by society even being found innocent afterwards; and

(d) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per available information, undertrials constitute about 73 percent of the prison population of the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government are generally aware of the problem of non-acceptance by the society after release of undertrials from jails.

(d) Both the Government and the Judiciary are concerned with the problem of undertrails in prisons. The Supreme Court of India has issued some directions in the case — R.D. Upadhyay *Vs.* State of Andhra Pradesh and Others, regarding speedy disposal of cases involving undertrial prisoners. The Directions of the Supreme Court have been commended to all State Governments/U.T. administrations for necesssary action.

The High Court of Delhi, *vide* its judgement dated 25.11.1999 in Crl. Writ 681/99, Essang Nyong & Other *Vs.* State of New Delhi, has directed the State Legal Services Authority to explore the possibility of holding of Lok Adalats in prisons for dealing with of the prisoners involved in petty crimes.

Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of 17334 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of cases involving undertrials on priority. These courts will start functioning with effect from April, 2001.

Study for reserved seats in Chhattisgarh

† 448. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) whether Government have conducted a study for the reserved seats of Lok Sabha, State Assembly and Rajya Sabha as per the population of State after the creation of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Assembly, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha seats togetherwith the names of constituencies that have been decided to be kept reserved for the candidates belonging to SC / ST and Other Backward Classes; and

(d) whether the number of reserved seats are proposed to be increased keeping in view the population of SCs/ STs and Other Backward Classes in the State[9]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Election Commission has informed that as per the provisions of section 17 the Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000, the delimitation of constituencies and review of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh has not yet been taken up by it. There is no provision in the Constitution for reservation of seats in the Council of States as also for Other Backward Classes in the Legislative Assemblies and the House of the People.

(d) The Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Bill, 2000 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 27.11.2000, *inter alia*, seeks to provide for readjustment and rationalization of the seats without altering their number allotted to each State in the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of the States which may possibly result in overall increase of the number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes presently allotted to them.

Grant provided to Rajasthan

† 449. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant provided to the Government of Rajasthan in the Financial year 1999-2000 and 2000- 2001 by his Ministry and details of the heads, programmes and any specific Field for which the said grant has been provided; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.